

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 23, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Peter Kochenburger

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2012 special meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2012 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2012 special meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2012 special meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane, Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Schaefer who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. WPCA – Benefit Assessment – Extension of Town Sewers to serve the College Mart
Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority. Motion passed unanimously.

No comments were offered.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to reconvene as the Town Council. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, spoke against retroactive pay increases for Town employees and objected to the passing of the budget. (Statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, thanked the Council for their work on the budget and commented that he is in agreement with some of the Council's decisions. Mr. Freudmann expressed concern with the added personnel and the increase in the cost of MERS. (Submitted documents to be included in the May 7, 2012 packet)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked how much the Town paid for the land underneath the parking garage and any other land the Town has acquired in connection with the Storrs Center Project. Ms. Wassmundt expressed her belief that the growth of government is unsustainable, she objects to raises in the budget.

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, commented governing is a complex business and most residents want good services for a moderate tax rate. Mr. Raphaelson thanked the members of the Town Council for being capable, hardworking officials who make sure we have excellent services.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager offered the following comments: It is typical in the public sector, when contracts are settled after the expiration date, to make any pay increases effective from the date of the expired contract. The Finance Committee has discussed the Town's pension system. In the MERS contract the employees' contribution is fixed by statute. All land transferred to the Town in connection

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with the Storrs Center Project has been at no cost to the Town with the exception of a small easement along Dog Lane which cost approximately \$1500.00. A discussion of Spring Weekend will be added to the next agenda but the Town Manager expressed his thanks for the combined efforts of all involved, especially Sgt. Cournoyer who has made a considered effort to get to know the students. Mr. Hart also expressed his condolences to the family of Kevin Crosbie, publisher of the Chronicle, calling him a fair and principled individual.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Shapiro asked for an update on the construction near the intersection of Rte 195 and Chafeeville Road. The Town Manager will request a projected completion date.

Mr. Ryan apologized to Mr. Freudmann regarding the numbers he used to articulate the expenditure rating of the K-12 schools system. Mr. Freudmann's numbers were correct. Mr. Ryan also asked the Town Manager for an update on the letters in the packet regarding a kennel in a residential neighborhood and an email received by Council members concerning the animal control officer's interaction with a resident.

Mr. Hart responded the Zoning Enforcement Officer has sent a letter to the occupants of the house on Stonemill Road regarding the concerns raised in the letters and has reviewed the concerns regarding the visit and the amount of the fine levied with the animal control officer. Visits to residences who are believed to have unlicensed dogs will take place prior to 8:00 p.m. but the officer will continue to bring a police officer with her in some instances.

Ms. Lindsey asked for an update on the concerns expressed by the Willowbrook Road residents. Mr. Hart noted the Traffic Authority will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the issue. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Moran stated that with regards to retroactive payments to employees, it would not be appropriated to punish an employee by delaying an increase due to them because of management or Council's inability to complete the contract or agreement prior to the expiration date of the existing contract.

Mayor Paterson expressed her gratitude to all those involved in Spring Weekend especially the students, Sgt Cournoyer and Jim Hintz of the Campus Community Partnership. The Town will continue to monitor future events. Ms. Paterson announced UConn Dining Services will be Chamber of Commerce's Mansfield's Business of the Year in recognition of their contributions to the Town during the recent storms. Dennis Pearce will accept the award. The Mayor also commented that the tone of the email she received regarding the animal control officer was unnecessary.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. WPCA – Benefit Assessment – Extension of Town Sewers to serve the College Mart
Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Moran to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the Town sewer line has been extended to serve numbers 82 to 86 Storrs Road (College Mart Plaza) in Mansfield, and

Whereas, a connection charge for this sewer has been established in accordance with Section 159-14f of the Town Code, and

Whereas, a public hearing, duly noticed, was conducted on this matter on April 23, 2012, and

Whereas, the owners of 82-86 Storrs Road have requested the assessment be paid over a 10 year period.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, acting as the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority, on April 23, 2012 that:

1. A sewer assessment for the property at 82-86 Storrs Road be levied in the amount of \$9,125, the amount computed as the connection charge for this property in accordance with Section 159-14f of the Mansfield Town Code.
 2. Said assessment shall be due in 10 equal installments as provided for in Section 159-15d of the Mansfield Town Code.
 3. The Town Clerk is directed to record the assessment and the payments due for this property on the land records as provided for in Section 159-15d of the Town Code and Section 7-253 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to reconvene as the Town Council. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Venter Property, 76 Fern Road

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 23, 2012, to authorize the Town Manager to include the property located at 76 Fern Road and owned by Raymond Venter in the next tax sale.

Council members agreed if the tax sale was unsuccessful they would explore the other possible options. Town staff will check with its environmental attorney to see what the criteria would be regarding the grantee's responsibilities concerning the remediation efforts.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager will provide a report on past stop work orders at the next meeting. Mr. Shapiro suggested a convenience store would be a needed commodity in the Storrs Center Project. Mr. Hart commented there are active negotiations ongoing with a national chain.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Quality Data Service (QDS) – Revenue Collection and Assessor's Administration System Demonstration

Collector of Revenue Christine Gamache, Director of Finance Cherie Trahan, Assessor Irene Luciano and Director of Information Technology Jamie Russell presented an overview of the benefits and cost savings realized as a result of the recently installed new administration system.

6. Connecticut Department of Transportation Alternate Fuel Vehicle Program Grant Application

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the following resolution: Resolved this 23rd of April, 2012 that the Mansfield Town Council approves the filing of the application to purchase an alternate fueled vehicle under the CT DOT's Alternate Fuel Vehicle Program.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Classification – Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator Position

Chair of the Personnel Committee Antonia Moran moved, effective April 23, 2012 to create the classification of Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator and set the pay grade for the position at grade 18, salary range of \$29/hr-\$37.70/hr (\$52,980/yr - \$68,873/yr), of the town administrators pay plan.

The Personnel Committee voted 2 to 1 to bring this action to the Council.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane, Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Paulhus who voted in opposition.

8. Appointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, to appoint Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran to the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on July 1, 2012 and expiring on June 30, 2015.
Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Moran who abstained.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Name Streets and Buildings, reported on the Committee's initial meeting. Mr. Ryan announced the criteria established by the Committee included the nominated person must be deceased and have served the Town in a volunteer or elected capacity for several years. A press release will be disseminated to the public. The Committee requested guidance from the Council as to whether to change the scope of the Committee charge to include more than the one street. By consensus the Council agreed the Committee should discuss all the possibilities and bring their recommendations back to the Council.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee voted 2-1 to support the proposed Ethics Ordinance with a few minor modifications. The issue will be put on the agenda for the second meeting in May.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

9. Petition: Willowbrook Road

10. B. Caneira (4/8/12)

11. K. O'Callaghan (4/12/12) After some discussion about the program and process the Council agreed to refer this request to the Human Services Advisory Committee. The Council would like information on the program and how many Mansfield residents it currently serves. The motion passed by all except Mr. Schaefer who abstained.

12. S. Kaeser re: Mansfield Little League Opening Day

13. L. Minearo (4/19/12)

14. Council-Requested Budget Information - Budget and Fund Balance Benchmarking

15. State of Connecticut Department of Transportation – Public Hearing Notice

16. State of Connecticut Siting Council – Public Hearing Notice

17. University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – “Poll will assess Mansfield's fitness”

18. Annual Town Meeting Flyer

19. Coming to Storrs Center

20. Mansfield Rid Litter Day

21. Courant.com “Spring Weekend: The Party's Off at UConn” – 04-13-12

22. Spring Weekend: A Message from the Student Affairs VP and the Chief of Police

23. State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety re: State Police Prepare for UConn Weekends

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

No additional subjects suggested

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth A Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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